

REMARKS

The Examiner's continued attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-13, and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. References in claims 1 and 19 to "the optical axis" have been replaced with "the alignment axis". Note that the alignment axis in the present application corresponds to the optical axis 34 of Wetherell et al. (Wetherell). Claim 11 does not have the offending phrase.

The Examiner rejected claims 11-13 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The rejection is traversed concerning the "adjusting the mirrors" phrase, as this is inherent in the system as shown in Fig. 1, and adjusted as in Figs. 2 or 3. Again, References in claims 1 and 19 to "the optical axis" have been replaced with "the alignment axis".

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7-9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wetherell in view of Draganov et al. ("Draganov"). The rejection is traversed, particularly in light of the amendments to the claims.

In the present invention, the primary and tertiary mirrors have a common vertex. A "vertex" of a mirror is the point at which it intersects the optical axis. Note that in Wetherell there is no intersection of optical axis 34 with either the primary mirror 33 or the tertiary mirror 31, as can easily be seen in Fig. 4 of Wetherell. The same is true for the telescope of Draganov, because an aperture 210 exists through which light exits in the center of the mirrors to reach the focal plane 214. Furthermore, there is no incentive to combine Wetherell with Draganov because Wetherell is an imaging system and Draganov is a telescope. The resulting combination makes no sense because Wetherell images to an off-axis sensor whereas Draganov outputs light through a hole in the center of the primary/secondary mirror. Accordingly, the combination does not result in the present invention and, if it did, there is no motivation to combine the references because the combination destroys the intended purposes of the two references.

The Examiner rejected claims 11-13, 17, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wetherell in view of Draganov. The rejection is traversed, for the same reasons as above.

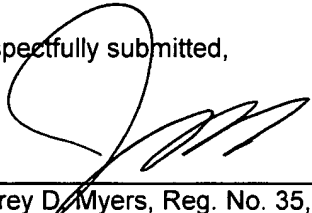
The Examiner rejected claims 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wetherell in view of Draganov and Pinson. The rejection is traversed. Pinson does not cure the deficiencies of the primary references noted above.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection and objection have been avoided and/or traversed. It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance and same is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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